

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AGR-20 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10 RSC-01

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 L-03

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R 031102Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9874

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 5345

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, PK

SUBJ: PL 480: BHUTTO VISIT

1. DURING MEETING JULY 2 WITH GOP MINSTATE AZIZ AHMED DURING WHICH VARIOUS ASPECTS OF PRES BHUTTO'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO US WERE DISCUSSED, CHARGE SAID HE WANTED TO MAKE SOME REMARKS REGARDING GOP'S PENDING REQUESTS FOR WHEAT AND EDIBLE OIL UNDER PL 480. HE NOTED THAT US WHEAT STOCKS WERE DOWN ABOUT 50 PERCENT COMPARED WITH LAST YEAR AND THAT SOARING PRICES HAD ADDED TO DOMESTIC INFLATIONARY PRESSURES IN US. AS CONSEQUENCE, AS GOP KNEW, USG HAS HAD TO CURTAIL AND CONTROL WHEAT EXPORTS, INCLUDING THOSE UNDER PL 480. USG HAS HAD GOP'S REQUEST FOR WHEAT UNDER VERY ACTIVE CONSIDERATION BUT BECAUSE OF THESE SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES WE ARE AT THIS MOMENT UNCERTAIN WHAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO DO. IN ANY EVENT, WE DO NOT NOW ANTICIPATE ANY ALLOCATION TO PAKISTAN FOR THE FIRST QUARTER FY-74 (WHICH NEED NOT IN ITSELF PRESENT ANY SERIOUS PROBLEM TO PAKISTAN BECAUSE THIS IS THE PERIOD OF AMPLE DOMESTIC SUPPLY HERE).

2. AS FOR OIL, CHARGE WENT ON, US STOCKS OF SOYBEAN AND COTTONSEED OILS WILL ALSO BE DOWN ABOUT 50 PERCENT
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FROM LAST YEAR, SOYBEAN PRICES HAVE APPROXIMATELY TRIPLED. VERY RECENTLY USG WAS OBLIGED TO IMPOSE EMBARGO ON EXPORT OF SOYBEANS AND COTTONSEEDS AS WELL AS VARIOUS MEAL AND OIL PRODUCTS OF THESE COMMODITIES.

3. OVER LONGER TERM, CHARGE STATED, USG HOPES IT CAN HELP RELIEVE PRESSURES ON SUPPLIES AND PRICES OF BOTH WHEAT AND EDIBLE OILS BY BRINGING ADDITIONAL LAND INTO PRODUCTION AND BY OTHER STEPS. BUT THIS WILL TAKE SOME TIME.

4. SUMMING UP, CHARGE SAID US IS OPERATING UNDER UNPRECEDENTED CONSTRAINTS ON COMMODITY AVAILABILITIES. USG AGENCIES ARE FINDING IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO MAKE COMMITMENTS UNTIL SUPPLY/DEMAND PICTURE CLARIFIED. MEANWHILE, USG CONTINUES AS BEFORE TO DESIRE BE AS RESPONSIVE AS POSSIBLE TO GOP'S NEEDS, AND CHARGE WISHED EMPHASIZE THIS POINT. CHARGE HAD WISHED TO MAKE THESE POINTS INFORMALLY BECAUSE WE KNOW OF GOP'S CONCERN. THERE HAVE BEEN SOME INTIMATIONS THAT THIS MATTER MIGHT BE RAISED DUS BY PRES BHUTTO. CHARGE SAID HE THOUGHT IT WAS THUS ESPECIALLY TIMELY TO REVIEW HOW SITUATION STANDS ON EVE OF VISIT. HE DID NOT THINK HE HAD SAID ANYTHING THAT GOP EXPERTS DID NOT ALREADY KNOW, BUT IT WAS PERHAPS DESIRABLE TO BRING MATTER TO ATTENTION OF GOP LEADERSHIP.

5. MINSTATE LISTENED WITHOUT COMMENT WHILE MFA NOTE-TAKER SCRIBBLED HURRIEDLY. WE ASSUME GIST OF CHARGE'S REMARKS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO INTERESTED GOP AGENCIES.

SOBER

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